

Out of 22 States and 9 Union Territories 18 States and 3 Union Territories, Delhi, Goa and Pondicherry, have their own Archives Departments. Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Sikkim and Nagaland have set up their archival repositories in recent years, though their progress has not been quite satisfactory. Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar are exploring possibilities of setting up of their own Archives. To expedite matters the Commission's earlier Resolutions can be reiterated.

Proceedings : The members pointed out that similar resolutions had been passed earlier also. But considering the great importance of this matter, it was agreed that a resolution might be passed re-iterating the commission's views.

The following resolution was then passed :

Resolution VI : "The Indian Historical Records Commission reiterates its earlier resolutions No. IV of 1958 and V of 1976 passed at its 34th Session and 44th Session respectively and again strongly urges that the States and centrally administered territories which have no Records Offices should immediately establish their own Records offices and begin to collect and conserve Records of historical and cultural value in addition to the current administrative records."

K. Teaching of Record Languages

(11) Resolutions by Dr. S. N. Prasad, Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission

"Mindful of the vital importance and large volume of old records extant in the oriental languages like Persian written in *Shikasta* script, Modi, Marathi, old Rajasthani, Tamil, Oriya, etc., the Commission urges the Government of India, the State Governments, the archival repositories and the universities to provide facilities and incentives urgently for the study of these languages and scripts".

Explanatory Note : Most of the records concerning the Medieval period found in the various repositories are in Persian, Rajasthani, Marathi, Portuguese, Tamil, etc. Such records are couched in scripts which cannot easily be deciphered and historians have expressed great concern at the fast declining talents in deciphering such scripts. It is, therefore, high time that the concerned authorities should promote teaching of such languages and scripts and provide necessary incentives, if research in our country is to remain record-oriented, and based on original sources.

Proceedings : In the discussion, several Members emphasised the importance of this matter. This resolution was passed unanimously :

Resolution VII : "Mindful of the vital importance and large volume of old records extant in the oriental languages like Persian written in *Shikasta* script, Modi, Marathi, old Rajasthani, Tamil, Oriya, etc., the Commission urges the Government of India, the State Governments, the archival repositories and the universities to provide facilities and incentives urgently for the study of these languages and scripts".